Non availability of confirm seats in trains for Bangalore

1954. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of students of Delhi and adjoining States are visiting Karnataka (Bangalore) to appear in CET-98 examination to be held on 13/14 June, 1998; and

(b) whether due to non availability of confirmed seats in trains, these students are facing a lot of difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) A large number of passengers are there on the waiting list in Karnataka Express train leaving New Delhi on 09-06-1998 & 10-06-1998. Apart from augmenting the train, a special train from Delhi to Bangalore was run on 09.06.1998 to clear extra rush and instructions have been given to run a special train from Bangalore to Delhi on 14.06.1998.

New railway projects for North Eastern States

1955. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the ongoing and new railway projects being taken up for the North-Eastern States;

(b) the project-wise allocations made against each project in the Ninth Plan and amount spent during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(c) the progress of work made so far; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) Information is given in annexure.

[*See* Appendix 184, Annexure No. 62]

Gauge conversion between Kollam and Madurai

1956. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work to convert the railways metre gauge line from Kollam to Madurai will be taken during the year 1998-99; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Gauge conversion of Kollam-Virudhunagar is an approved work to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances. Action in this regard has been initiated. Virudhunagar-Madurai BG line already exists.

Computerisation of Railway Station in Rajasthan

1957. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many railway stations in Rajasthan and Orissa States have so far been computerised/being modernised, State-wise; and

(b) the estimated cost involved, State-wise, indicating whether there has been cost over-runs in the implementation of modernisation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Computerised reservation facilities have been provided at 14 stations in Rajasthan and 8 stations in Orissa. Provision of such facilities at Bhilwara in Rajasthan has been included in the Annual Plan 1998-99. This is in addition to the stations where the work relating to these facilities is in progress.

(b) Rajasthan Rs. 537.65 lakhs and Orissa Rs. 123.00 lakhs. There has been not cost over-run.